

## GOOD PRACTICES AND LESSONS LEARNED

### Plan International UK- Tanzania

Project: Partnership to enhance livelihoods and social inclusion of marginalised young people dependent on the informal economy

#### Good Practice – Youth Forums Advocacy

##### 1. Brief summary

The Youth Forums are groups formed of 20 youth (10 male & 10 female) at two different government administrative levels: district and national levels.

The Youth Forums aim to represent the voices of marginalized youth for their interests to be heard and attended to. These interests include but are not limited to: youth policy, decent employment, information about job market and on how to access government loans available for youth businesses. The 20 forum members at every district level (district forum) are selected among youth in government administrative units called Wards where each Ward is represented by not less than two but not more than six (a female/ male balance is observed) who in most cases are youth leaders at that level. National Forums are formed of 20 youth, plus a chairperson and secretary from each of 10 project districts forums. The forum members are selected and elected by their fellows at each respective level. The selection criteria are: willingness to participate, acceptance of the provision of time on a volunteer basis (there is no allowance or compensation of any sort), living in the area, knows how to read and write, willingness to learn and to help others. In each forum there are at least 2 disabled youth.

##### 2. Key Areas of Good Practice:

- Advocacy Methods (1.2)
- Providing support to informal economy operators/workers to access services (social protection services, business registration, access to formal savings and credit schemes, training, etc.) (3.1)
- Leadership training, empowerment training (3.4)

##### 3. Context - Brief description

###### Where the good practice was implemented:

There are in total 10 district YEE Youth Forums and 1 national YEE forum; these districts are: Ilala, Temeke, Kibaha TC, Kibaha DC, Kisarawe, Kilombero, Mtwara MC, Mtwara DC, Lindi MC & Lindi DC, and are a mix of urban and rural locations.

###### Why it was implemented:

This good practice was developed to empower youth, through the Youth Forums to pursue and influence the Government Authority to issues which affect youth in the respective Districts. Our youth have been provided with management, leadership skills and negotiation skills and they are now able to interface with government officials to represent youth in their communities, report problems and advocate for solutions.

###### Who was involved:

Local Govt Officials (Ward Executive officers, Ward Development officers, District Youth Officers, Regional Commissioner, the project partners (VETA Staff, UHIKI/ CODERT Staff, Plan International

staff). TRA Official, Police officers, Councillors and youth themselves.

The Youth Forum initiative benefitted globally the youth from the target communities, and in the specific case study presented, all the 36 youth of who were affected by delay in receiving the driving licences after completing driving course.

**When the activity was implemented:**

The Youth Forums were set-up during the life of the project, the specific case study took place between August 2017 and February 2018.

The Youth Forums have proven to be instrumental in supporting youth voices to flag and resolve youth employment issues with local government and local actors in the project districts.

This practice is based on Plan International's extensive experience in working to support youth voices and youth advocacy initiatives and has been adapted for this project to cater for the voices of the youth in the project locations specifically around youth employment. The case study provided is one example of how the Youth Forums have contributed to improve the position of young entrepreneurs in starting their business and improving their livelihoods. Youth Forums by definition involve project beneficiaries and stakeholders and implementing a right-based approach empower youth to hold duty bearers to account.

**4. Description: processes and steps involved**

In Mwaya ward, Kilombero district in Morogoro region, the Youth Forum successfully negotiated with the local government on the issuing of driving licences for 36 project graduate beneficiaries after some restrictions on issuance.

The restriction was the result of the change of procedures of the Tanzania Revenue authority (TRA), where the vendor who was supplying printing material to TRA was now required to pay income taxes. The directive also aimed at reducing forged driving licenses in the country; this restriction had the support of the President.

In August 2017, Kilombero Youth Forum members under the leadership of Mr. Rashid Ndomati (chairperson) and Magdalena Kimweri (Deputy Chairperson) visited Mwaya and talked to their fellow youth concerning the matter.

*"This process had taken longer than expected, almost 1 year, and youth lost faith and thought somebody took their money for his/her own purposes and claimed that they have been cheated". "It was a big challenge to them as they couldn't also practice their profession with the fear of being caught by police as offenders. But forum members did a great job that amicably settled the matter",* said Adolf Jeremiah, the project Coordinator.

The police commander of Mwaya-police and the Ward Executive Officer was called to provide explanations for the delay to the youth and committed to have the licences delivered within a six months' timeframe. In January 2018, after six months, as the licences were still not available, the Youth Forum members brought the matter to the attention of the Morogoro region Commissioner. Mr. Kabwe who got involved and managed to get licenses for 15 youth while the other 21 license are in process of being issued. *"The lobbying and communication skills employed by the forum leaders were instrumental for reaching an amicable agreement"* said Judith Komba, the Project Advocacy officer.

The forum members are selected and elected by their peers at each respective level. The selection criteria are: willingness to participate, acceptance of the provision of time on a volunteer basis (there is no allowance or compensation of any sort), living in the area, knows how to read and write,

willingness to learn and to help others. In each forum there are be at least 2 disabled youth.

There are in total 10 district YEE Youth Forums and 1 national YEE forum; these districts are: Ilala, Temeke, Kibaha TC, Kibaha DC, Kisarawe, Kilombero, Mtwara MC, Mtwara DC, Lindi MC & Lindi DC.

The forum members receive training in: communication skills; leadership; lobbying and advocacy; peer education; gender awareness training. They are also provided with information on employment policy, Youth Development policy, Employment Law, Social Security Fund, Health insurance, Youth development Fund and Importance of Youth groups in Tanzania.

Trained youth then cascade down the training to their peers, with particular focus on how to form Income generating Activities (IGA) and Youth Savings and Loans Associations (YSLAs); they also establish a link between youth and decision makers/stakeholders/NGOs and other potentials supporters.

#### **5. Resources and skills needed to carry out the good practice**

Communication, negotiation, leadership, conflict management, advocacy skills. Funds to facilitate transport to support those members to travel from respective villages to the District to meet with District Government officials, and a position of youth governance coordinator to support the youth groups.

#### **6. Sustainability of the Good Practice:**

The project is working with District Youth Development officers and Community Resource person (CRPs) and local Government officers and influential leaders.

#### **7. Links to Other Resources: [Simon.Ndembeka@plan-international.org](mailto:Simon.Ndembeka@plan-international.org)**

#### **8. What the originators of the Good Practice would do differently if they were to do it again**

This good practice came from Plan International experience in implementing similar projects i.e. the PAGES Project, Banking on Change and NBC Project, where we learned about the importance of involving and building the capacity of youth to hold the government to account for the enjoyment of their rights. Before being involved in the project, youth were afraid to speak and even to ask for assistance to apply for District Youth Development Funds and make sure that the local authorities allocate those funds to youth businesses.

#### **Illustration of the Good Practice: Lack of contracts and overworking hired labours**

These were reported in Mwaya Ifakara, Morogoro region, where many youths are employed but not given contracts, and work with no compensation. When one of the Youth Forum members, Magdalena reported it to the same management she was discontinued.

Through the District Youth Forum, this issue was reported during the national forum that met in Dodoma in December 2017. The youth advocacy officer together with national YEE Youth Forum leaders advocated for reforms with the Minister of State in Prime for Parliamentary affairs, Policy Labour and Employment and Youth and People With Disability, Jenister Mhagama, who directed the concerned district labour office to investigate the matter and take action immediately.

#### **Illustration of the Good Practice: Employment Challenges to Disability, Electricians**

There is an unemployment challenge among the majority of the youth with special needs. Likewise among those who have taken electric installation profession courses in different project areas. Among the lessons learnt is that the Youth Forums should firmly to link youth with different opportunities, on behalf of their fellow youth especially those with special needs. Kibaha Youth Forum Livelihood (YFL) has managed to help others achieve their dream in term of employment. A total of seven (7) electricians from YEE project got temporally employment at Tanesco (two of them are located at Kongowe and four at Bagamoyo while the other one who is disable with hearing

problem is at Ruvu Chini water supply plant). Mr. Rashid Ndevu the Chair of kibaha DC-YLF who is also one of Tanesco employees led this initiative.

Four youth with disabilities who are mobile phones technicians have finally received a location for their business offered by Morogoro Regional commissioner. The youth who have been operating from inside the house of the one the members were promised an office some time back but were provided with one that did not meet their requirements and refused it. With the advocacy of the Youth Forum members, they have been promised a better one within two weeks.

**Illustration of the Good Practice: Community Services for Identification**

Youth economic empowerment graduates are failing to find work and tenders in the communities they live in due to the fact that people do not know about them nor about their potential.

To be better known Youth Forum members have organised their colleagues to join the cleaning activities that take place every last Saturday of the month.

As a result of recently introduced regulation, one Saturday in each month is public cleanliness day. On this day all people have to clean around their areas from 7-11am.

Youth in Lindi region participate fully in community cleanliness where they participate with local government leaders and prominent people in their areas. After work they address them on their professions and what they do in general.

As a result, youth have started receiving tenders from their communities as well as support at the district level for loans. Their participation has also created a positive attitude among their fellow youth that have now started participating unlike before.